

March 16, 1976

PRESIDENT: Senator Nichol.

SENATOR NICHOL: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. As I understand this Lincoln, Omaha and Bellevue are collecting money for a certain purpose. I guess they've been spending the money themselves for the past year or so, whatever it has been in existence. I wonder if there's a problem with the way they're handling the money or why ~~this is~~ necessary. Senator Bereuter, I'd like to have you explain, sometime before we get to voting on this, if this is necessary or if it isn't necessary that we handle the money in this way. In other words, give it back to the state and then the state appropriate it back? Is this what has to be done according to law, or are we just choosing to make the law, at this time, that it shall be done in this manner? I'm not necessarily opposing the bill, I'd just like to have a little more information so that those of us that are somewhat new around here would have an idea as to what's going on. Thank you.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter, could you respond to that question.

SENATOR BEREUTER: Yes, I can. I'd be happy to Senator Koch ... I mean Senator Nichol and to Senator Dworak and Senator Carsten. I'm not rehashing something. We passed a bill, LB 868, that had these provisions in it. I came and talked to each one of you on the floor before I added that amendment. You said you found nothing objectionable with these portions. We passed a bill, 868, the Governor signed it, which authorized the money as effective July 1, 1976 to go into the General Fund rather than the cash fund. All I'm trying to do now is reconcile the figures in the budget bill because the budget bill had to be prepared at the status quo. The status quo was that LB 868 had not been passed. LB 868 was passed March 11th so, therefore, we're going to have to change the budget bill by juggling these two figures. It's as simple as that. I'm not trying to make a commotion about it.

PRESIDENT: Are you asking for the previous question, Senator? Are there five seconds? I see five seconds. The question is shall debate now cease. Record your vote. Have you voted? Record.

CLERK: 25 ayes, 11 nays to cease debate.

PRESIDENT: Senator Bereuter, do you wish to make any further debate?

SENATOR BEREUTER: Mr. President, members of the Legislature. I hope we've settled the confusion about the issue. I tried, briefly, to go over it before. All I'm trying to do is legitimize LB 868, which this body enacted and the Governor signed March 11, 1976. Effective July 1 of this year, money collected for collecting the municipal sales tax, three percent of the take will go into the General Fund rather than into the Tax Commissioners' cash fund. Therefore, we have to boost the General Fund limit \$400,000 so he can accomplish this task. That \$400,000 plus, in fact \$875,000, will come in from collections, municipal sales tax Omaha, Lincoln and Bellevue. The rest of the